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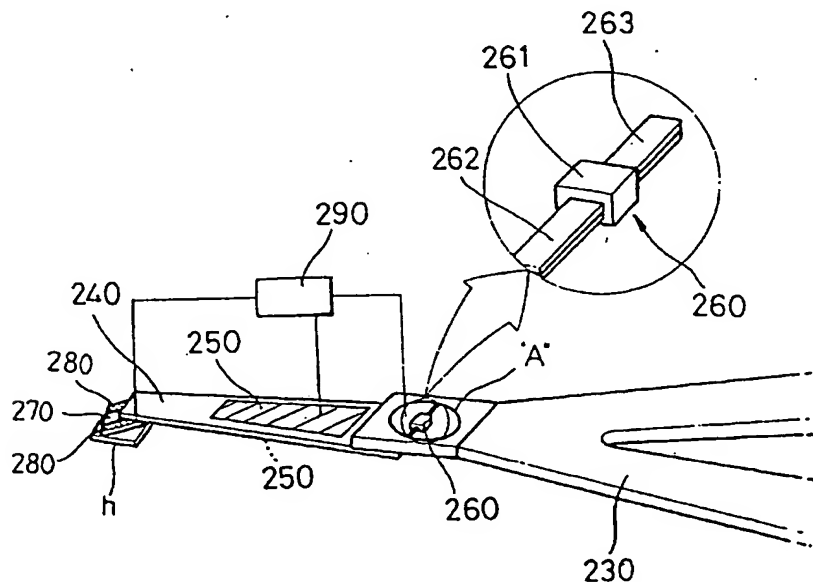
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(54) Method of controlling flying of magnetic head and device therefor in hard disk drive

(57) A magnetic head flying controlling device for use in a hard disk drive, comprising a first sensor (250) for detecting a vertical displacement of a suspension (240), and a second sensor (260) for detecting a horizontal displacement of the suspension; and a control cir-

cuit (30) for halting the recording or reproduction of the magnetic head based on signals output from the first and second sensors, i.e. when an impact or vibration is detected, and stores the halted position of the magnetic head.

FIG. 7



Description

[0001] The present invention relates to a hard disk drive and more particularly, to a control method for controlling the floating displacement of a flying magnetic head with respect to a disk, and a device therefor.

[0002] A hard disk drive in which information is recorded or reproduced is usually used as an auxiliary memory device of a personal computer. Recently, the storage capacity of the hard disk drive has increased significantly, whereas the size thereof has gradually reduced. Accordingly, the track pitch of a disk and the bit cell thereof have become finer and finer. Thus, a servo control technology for floating a magnetic head at a constant and fine interval throughout the disk region is required to record or reproduce information on such a disk.

[0003] Figure 1 shows a conventional hard disk drive. Referring to Figure 1, at least one magnetic disk 11 is rotatably mounted on a spindle motor (not shown) installed on a base frame 10. Also, a magnetic head actuator 20 for pivoting around a pivot shaft to fly a magnetic head (h) on the disk 11 is included.

[0004] The magnetic head actuator 20, as shown in Figure 2, includes a swing arm 23 which is pivoted around a shaft 22 by a voice coil motor 21, a suspension 24 installed on the swing arm 23, and a magnetic head (h) fixed on a gimbal 25 installed at the end of the suspension 24. As shown in figure 1, a circuit driving portion 30 controls the transmission of a signal between a main circuit board, interfaced with a main body such as a computer, and the magnetic head (h), and also controls the driving of the actuator 20.

[0005] In the operation of the hard disk drive, the magnetic head (h) detects information from tracks on the disk 11 while moving in a radial direction of the disk 11 according to the driving of the actuator 20. The magnetic head (h) is in contact with the disk 11 at the beginning of the operation of the disk driver, and then rises to a certain height from the disk 11 as the rotating speed of the disk 11 gradually increases. That is, since the magnetic head (h) contacts the disk 11 at the initial operation of the disk driver, abrasion of the magnetic head occurs. Also, the magnetic head may be damaged by an impact generated when the magnetic head (h) lands on the surface of the disk 11 after the operation of the disk driver.

[0006] In order to solve the above problem, the conventional hard disk drive includes a vibration detecting sensor 40 for detecting and controlling the flying displacement of the magnetic head (h), as shown in Figure 1.

[0007] The vibration detecting sensor 40 includes two thin piezo-electric elements 41 and 42 which are joined to each other capable of having opposite polarities, as shown in Figure 3. The vibration detecting sensor 40 is installed on the base frame 10 such that one end is fixed and the other end is free. For example, when an impact or vibration is transmitted from an external source, the free end is displaced to thus warp the piezo-electric el-

ements 41 and 42 as shown in Figure 3, thereby generating an electric charge. A voltage signal generated according to the above is transmitted to the magnetic head actuator 20, so that information recording or reproduction by the magnetic head (h) is temporarily halted. Therefore, after the cause of the vibration is removed, the recording or reproduction can be resumed from the halted state.

[0008] However, the degree of displacement of the flying magnetic head detected by the vibration detecting sensor 40 varies depending on the position where the sensor is installed and the source of the external vibration. Furthermore, since the base frame 10 is made of a rigid material which can absorb vibration, the sensor 40 cannot detect minor impacts or vibrations. In particular, in the case of a high density disk whose track pitch is very fine, the reliability of the detection is further deteriorated, and it is difficult to achieve an active control algorithm which can correct the generation of the displacement in real time.

[0009] Figures 4 and 5 show a conventional magnetic head actuator for actively controlling the flying displacement of a magnetic head due to an external impact or vibration. Like reference numerals as those in the above-mentioned drawings denote the same components. Referring to Figures 4 and 5, a piezo-electric polymer element 26 as a sensor for detecting a displacement due to an impact or vibration is attached to one surface of the suspension 24. A piezo-electric ceramic element 27, as a correction actuator for receiving a signal indicating the amount of displacement detected by the piezo-electric polymer element 26 and correcting the suspension 24 to a normal position, is attached to the opposite surface of the suspension 24. In Figure 5, reference numeral 50 is a control circuit driving portion for connecting the piezo-electric polymer 26 to the ceramic elements 27.

[0010] The piezo-electric polymer element 26 detects the displacement of the suspension 24 involved with displacement of the magnetic head h, to detect the displacement of the magnetic head h. Information on the detected amount of displacement is transmitted to the control circuit driving portion 50, signal-processed, and input to the piezo-electric ceramic element 27. Then, the piezo-electric ceramic element 27 generates a correction force corresponding to the amount of displacement to restore the suspension 24 to a normal position. Thus, the magnetic head h can be maintained at a constant flying height.

[0011] However, since the piezo-electric polymer element 26 is attached to the upper or lower surface of the suspension 24, it can detect only an upward or downward vibration displacement of the magnetic head h. Accordingly, since a displacement due to an impact or vibration in a lateral direction cannot be detected, in the case of a high density disk whose track pitch is very fine, the magnetic head h is displaced to an adjacent track even by a minute impact or vibration, which causes a

malfunction. Also, the piezo-electric polymer element 26 is greatly influenced by the surrounding temperature, so that reliability of displacement correction is degraded. Furthermore, a lead wire which is connected to the piezo-electric polymer element to provide starting power may fatigue and become disconnected due to movement of the suspension 24.

[0012] It is desired to control the flying height of the magnetic head with respect to a disk actively in real time, and to cope with both vertical and horizontal displacements of flying of the magnetic head which are generated due to a minute impact or vibration.

[0013] It is an aim of at least preferred embodiments of the present invention to provide a method and device for controlling the flying of a magnetic head, addressing the problems discussed above.

[0014] According to the present invention there is provided a magnetic head flying controlling device for use in a hard disk drive comprising: a swing arm which is pivoted by a voice coil motor; a suspension combined with the swing arm for supporting a magnetic head; a first sensor installed on the body of the suspension, for detecting a vertical displacement of the suspension as a signal; a second sensor installed on the body of the suspension, for detecting a horizontal displacement of the suspension as a signal; a control circuit portion for generating a control signal for controlling the operation of the magnetic head; and a magnetic head flying actuator, for controlling the driving of the magnetic head based on the control signal.

[0015] Preferably, the control circuit portion halts the recording or reproduction of the magnetic head based on signals output from the first and second sensors while at the same time storing the halted position of the magnetic head.

[0016] The first sensor is preferably a vibration detecting sensor which is installed on both surfaces of the suspension and has an insulating layer, a first conductive layer, a piezo-electric layer and a second conductive layer which are sequentially stacked on the surface of the suspension. The second sensor preferably comprises an inertial body installed on the suspension; and a pair of thin piezo-electric pieces symmetrically supported on both surfaces of the inertial body.

[0017] The control circuit portion preferably comprises first and second amplifiers for amplifying and outputting signals detected by the first and second sensors, respectively; first and second comparators for comparing signals output by the first and second amplifiers to an information signal about a predetermined normal position of the suspension, and outputting an information signal according to the result of the comparison; a latch portion for outputting a signal for cutting off power to halt the recording/reproducing operation of the magnetic head depending on signals output by the first and second comparators while at the same time storing the position of the halted magnetic head; and a controller for processing a signal input thereto by the latch portion and

controlling the driving of the magnetic head flying actuator.

[0018] Also, it is preferable that the magnetic head flying actuator is a thin-film piezo-electric element installed on the gimbal.

[0019] According to another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method for controlling the flying of a magnetic head in a hard disk drive, comprising the steps of: detecting a vertical displacement of a suspension for supporting a magnetic head, as a signal using a first sensor installed on the body of the suspension; detecting a horizontal displacement of the suspension as a signal using a second sensor installed on the body of the suspension; halting a recording/reproducing operation of the magnetic head based on signals output by the first and second sensors; storing the halted position of the magnetic head; rapidly raising the magnetic head; and resuming the recording/reproduction operation from the halted position by restoring the magnetic head to a normal flying position, after sources of the displacement of the suspension are removed.

[0020] For a better understanding of the invention, and to show how embodiments of the same may be carried into effect, reference will now be made, by way of example, to the accompanying diagrammatic drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a schematic plan view of a conventional hard disk drive;

Figures 2 and 4 are a perspective view and a side view of the magnetic head actuator shown in Figure 1, respectively;

Figure 3 is a perspective view of the vibration detecting sensor shown in Figure 1;

Figure 5 is a magnified side view of the essential parts of Figure 4;

Figure 6 is a schematic plan view of a hard disk drive adopting a magnetic head flying controlling device according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 7 is a schematic perspective view of the magnetic head actuator shown in Figure 6;

Figure 8 is a schematic plan view of the suspension shown in Figure 7;

Figure 9 is a schematic sectional view of Figure 6;

Figure 10 is a schematic sectional view of the second sensor shown in Figure 7;

Figure 11 is a block diagram of a control circuit portion in a preferred embodiment of a magnetic head

flying controlling invention; and

Figure 12 is a flowchart for illustrating a method for controlling the flying of a magnetic head according to preferred embodiments of the present invention.

[0021] Referring to Figure 6, a magnetic head flying controlling device according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention includes a swing arm 230 which pivots by a voice coil motor 21, a magnetic head h which flies at a predetermined height above a disk 11 while being supported by a suspension 240 installed on the swing arm 230 in order to record or reproduce information on the disk 11, and a controlling unit for detecting the displacement of the suspension 240 and controlling the flying position of the magnetic head h. Like reference numerals to those shown in the previous drawings denote the same or equivalent components.

[0022] The controlling unit, as shown in Figure 7, includes a first sensor 250 installed on both surfaces of the suspension 240 enabling detection of a vertical displacement of the suspension 240, a second sensor 260 installed on one surface of the suspension 240 enabling detection of a horizontal displacement of the suspension 240, a control circuit portion 290 connected to the first and second sensors 250 and 260, for generating a signal for correcting the displacement of the suspension 240 based on signals output from the first and second sensors 250 and 260, and a magnetic head flying actuator 280 for receiving a correction signal from the control circuit portion 290 and controlling the flying position of a magnetic head h. The magnetic head flying actuator 280 is installed on a gimbal 270 which is connected to the leading edge of the suspension 240 and supports the magnetic head h.

[0023] In the preferred embodiment, the first sensor 250 is a thin film piezo-electric vibration detection sensor formed by sequentially stacking an insulating layer 251, a first conductive layer 252, a piezo-electric layer 253 and a second conductive layer 254 on the surface of the suspension 240, as shown in Figures 8 and 9.

[0024] It is preferable that the thin film layers 251, 252, 253 and 254 are formed in a rectangular or trapezoidal shape using a sputtering method. In particular, the upper and lower piezo-electric layers 253 are formed of either a ferroelectric ceramic such as PZT(PbZrTiO₃) or a polymer to have an identical polarity direction with each other. At this time, it is preferable that the layers 253 are 1μm thick or thinner, for buoyancy is degraded to thus make accurate control difficult if the thicknesses thereof are formed so thick that the weight of the magnetic head actuator can reach 3g or more.

[0025] The second conductive layer 254 has an electrode layer 254a patterned to be connected to the control circuit portion 290 via a signal line L. The first conductive layer 252 is grounded to the suspension 240 by wire-bonding. According to such a grounding structure, the output of a voltage signal, which is detected by a

superconductive effect depending on the influence of its surrounding temperature, is offset, so that only a signal having a pure vibration component can be detected.

[0026] The second sensor 260 is a vibration detecting sensor comprising a pair of thin piezo-electric pieces 262 and 263 symmetrically supported on both sides of an inertial body 261 installed on the suspension 240, as shown in Figure 10. The piezo-electric pieces 262 and 263 are disposed to have the same polarity direction, and have first electrode layers 262a and 263a and second electrode layers 262b and 263b formed on the upper and lower surfaces of the piezo-electric pieces 262 and 263, respectively. The first electrode layers 262a and 263a and the second electrode layers 262b and 263b are connected to detect only a pure vibration signal by offsetting the output of a voltage signal detected by the superconductive effect depending on the influence of its surrounding temperature.

[0027] As shown in Figure 11, the control circuit portion 290 includes first and second amplifiers 291 and 292 for amplifying and outputting signals detected by the first and second sensors 250 and 260, respectively, first and second comparators 293 and 294 for comparing signals output from the first and second amplifiers 291 and 292 with an information signal about a predetermined normal position of the suspension 240, a latch portion 295 for outputting a signal for halting the recording/reproducing operation of the magnetic head h by selectively cutting off power according to the signal output from the first and second comparators 293 and 294, and simultaneously storing the position of the magnetic head h, and a controller 296 for processing the signal input from the latch portion 295 and controlling the driving of the magnetic head flying actuator 280.

[0028] Reference numeral 310 in Figure 11 is disk drive control PCB for controlling the recording or reproduction of the magnetic head h, which is switched to be disconnected from the magnetic head h upon generation of abnormal vibrations. Reference numeral 311 is a data buffer installed between the disk drive control PCB 310 and, for example, a main circuit board 300 of a computer.

[0029] The actuator 280, as a thin piezo-electric element provided on the gimbal 270 for supporting the magnetic head h, is driven to rapidly raise the magnetic head h using a control signal of the controller 296 when an abnormal vibration is generated.

[0030] Figure 12 is a flowchart for illustrating a driving control algorithm of a preferred magnetic head flying controlling device. The magnetic head flying controlling method for a hard disk drive, and the operation of the device therefor, will now be described in detail referring to Figures 7 through 12.

[0031] When the driving of the hard disk drive is begun, the magnetic head h is in contact with the disk 11. As the rotation speed of the disk 11 increases, the magnetic head h is raised to a certain height above the disk 11 and records or reproduces information while flying

over the disk 11. At this time, when an impact or vibration is transmitted from an external source, the first sensor 250 detects a vertical displacement of the suspension 240, in step 101. That is, the upper and lower piezo-electric pieces 253 breaks the balance of electrical charges evenly distributed inside or outside by being bent by the impact. A voltage output due to such an event is input to the control circuit portion 290. Simultaneously, the second sensor 260 can detect a horizontal displacement of the suspension 240. That is, when the piezo-electric pieces 262 and 263 are deformed by an impact, the balance of electrical charges evenly distributed inside and outside is broken, and a voltage output is input to the control circuit portion 290.

[0032] Horizontal and vertical vibration signals, respectively detected by the first and second sensors 250 and 260, are amplified by the first and second amplifiers 291 and 292, and compared to an information signal about a predetermined normal position of the suspension 240 by the first and second comparators 293 and 294. Then, an information signal according to the result of the above comparison is output to the latch portion 295.

[0033] The latch portion 295 transmits a signal to a switch S and the controller 296 when signals output from the first and second comparators 293 and 294 are signals of displacement generated due to an abnormal vibration, turns off the power to the magnetic head h, and stores the halted position of the magnetic head h while at the same time halting the recording or reproduction, in step 102.

[0034] The controller 296 processes a signal input from the latch portion 295 and drives the magnetic head flying actuator 280, whereby the magnetic head h is rapidly raised in step 103. At this time, the disk 11 rotates at normal speed.

[0035] Next, when the cause of an impact or vibration is removed in step 104, a normal signal is output by the control circuit portion 290. Thus, in step 105, the controller 296 drives the magnetic head flying actuator 280 to restore the magnetic head h to a normal flying position. At this time, the latch portion 295 transmits a signal for switching on the power of the magnetic head h to the switch S, and a normal recording/reproducing operation is resumed by transmitting information on the stored halted position of the magnetic head h to the disk drive control PCB 310 via the controller 296, in step 106.

[0036] According to the method and device described above for controlling the flying of a magnetic head for a hard disk drive, horizontal and vertical flying displacements of the magnetic head caused by impact or vibration are simultaneously detected and thus can be corrected in real time. Therefore, particularly for high density disks whose track pitch is significantly fine, its recording/reproducing operation can be performed more stably and reliably. Also, abrasion and damage due to impact contact upon the early raising or the landing of the magnetic head can be prevented.

[0037] The reader's attention is directed to all papers and documents which are filed concurrently with or previous to this specification in connection with this application and which are open to public inspection with this specification, and the contents of all such papers and documents are incorporated herein by reference.

[0038] All of the features disclosed in this specification (including any accompanying claims, abstract and drawings), and/or all of the steps of any method or process so disclosed, may be combined in any combination, except combinations where at least some of such features and/or steps are mutually exclusive.

[0039] Each feature disclosed in this specification (including any accompanying claims, abstract and drawings), may be replaced by alternative features serving the same, equivalent or similar purpose, unless expressly stated otherwise. Thus, unless expressly stated otherwise, each feature disclosed is one example only of a generic series of equivalent or similar features.

[0040] The invention is not restricted to the details of the foregoing embodiment(s). The invention extends to any novel one, or any novel combination, of the features disclosed in this specification (including any accompanying claims, abstract and drawings), or to any novel one, or any novel combination, of the steps of any method or process so disclosed.

Claims

1. A magnetic head flying controlling device for use in a hard disk drive, comprising:

a swing arm (230) arranged to be pivoted by a voice coil motor (21);

a suspension (240) combined with said swing arm (230) for supporting a magnetic head (h); and

a magnetic head flying actuator (280) for controlling the flying height of said magnetic head (h);

characterised by:

a first sensor (250) for detecting a vertical displacement of said suspension (240);

a second sensor (260) for detecting a horizontal displacement of said suspension (240); and

a control circuit (30) for generating a control signal for controlling the operation of said magnetic head (h) via said magnetic head flying actuator (280).

2. A magnetic head flying controlling device as

claimed in claim 1, wherein said first sensor (250) and/or second sensor (260) is installed on the body of said suspension (240).

3. A magnetic head flying controlling device as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein said control circuit (30) operatively halts the recording or reproduction of said magnetic head (h) based on signals output from said first and second sensors (250 & 260) whilst at the same time storing the halted position of said magnetic head (h). 5
4. The magnetic head flying controlling device as claimed in claims 1, 2 or 3 wherein said first sensor (250) is a vibration detecting sensor which is installed on both surfaces of said suspension (240) and has an insulating layer (251), a first conductive layer (252), a piezo-electric layer (253) and a second conductive layer (254) which are sequentially stacked on the surface of said suspension (240). 10 15 20
5. The magnetic head flying controlling device as claimed in claim 4, wherein said piezo-electric layer (253) is formed to a thickness equal to or less than 1µm. 25
6. The magnetic head flying controlling device as claimed in claim 4 or 5, wherein said piezo-electric layer (253) is formed of PZT or polymer. 30
7. The magnetic head flying controlling device as claimed in claim 4, 5 or 6, wherein said second conductive layer (254) includes an electrode layer patterned to be connected to said control circuit (30). 35
8. The magnetic head flying controlling device as claimed in any of claims 4 to 7, wherein said first conductive layer (252) is grounded to said suspension (240) by wire bonding. 40
9. The magnetic head flying controlling device as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6, wherein said second sensor (260) comprises:
 - an inertial body (261) installed on said suspension (240); and 45
 - a pair of thin piezo-electric pieces (262 & 263) symmetrically supported on both surfaces of said inertial body. 50
10. The magnetic head flying controlling device as claimed in claim 9, wherein said pair of thin piezo-electric pieces (262 & 263) are disposed to have the same polarity direction. 55
11. The magnetic head flying controlling device as claimed in claim 9 or 10, wherein first and second

electrode layers are formed on the upper and lower surfaces of said pair of thin piezo-electric pieces (262 & 263), respectively, and said first and second electrode layers are connected to each other.

12. The magnetic head flying controlling device as claimed in any claim preceding wherein said control circuit (30) comprises:

first and second amplifiers (291 & 292) for amplifying and outputting signals detected by said first and second sensors (250, 260), respectively;

first and second comparators (293, 294) for comparing signals output by said first and second amplifiers (291, 292) to an information signal about a predetermined normal position of said suspension (240), and outputting an information signal according to the result of the comparison;

a latch portion (295) for outputting a signal for cutting off power to halt the recording/reproducing operation of said magnetic head depending on signals output by said first and second comparators while at the same time storing the position of said halted magnetic head; and

a controller (296) for processing a signal input thereto by said latch portion and controlling the driving of said magnetic head flying actuator.

13. The magnetic head flying controlling device as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein said magnetic head flying actuator (280) is a thin-film piezo-electric element installed on a gimbal (270).

14. A method for controlling the flying of a magnetic head for use in a hard disk drive, said method comprising the steps of:

detecting a vertical displacement of a suspension (240) for supporting a magnetic head (h), as a signal using a first sensor (250) installed on the body of said suspension;

detecting a horizontal displacement of said suspension (240) as a signal using a second sensor (260) installed on the body of said suspension (240);

halting (296) a recording/reproducing operation of said magnetic head (h) based on signals output by said first and second sensors (250, 260);

storing the halted position of said magnetic head (h);

rapidly raising (280) said magnetic head (h);
and

resuming the recording/reproduction operation
from said halted position by restoring said mag- 5
netic head to a normal flying position, after
sources of the displacement of said suspension
are removed.

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FIG. 1 (PRIOR ART)

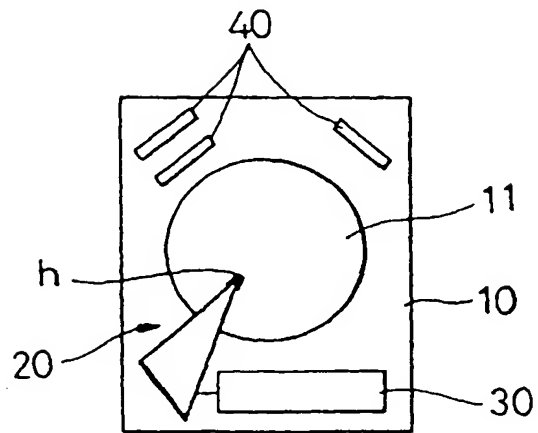


FIG. 3 (PRIOR ART)

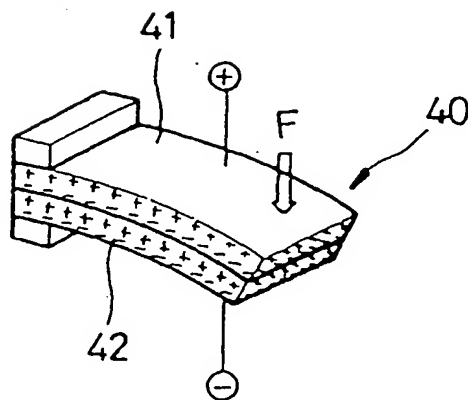


FIG. 2 (PRIOR ART)

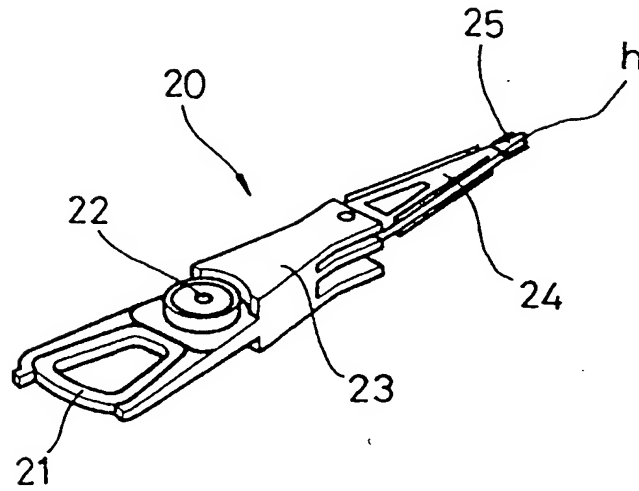


FIG. 4 (PRIOR ART)

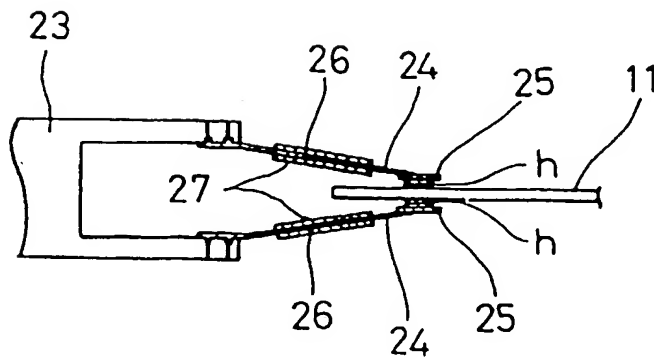


FIG. 5 (PRIOR ART)

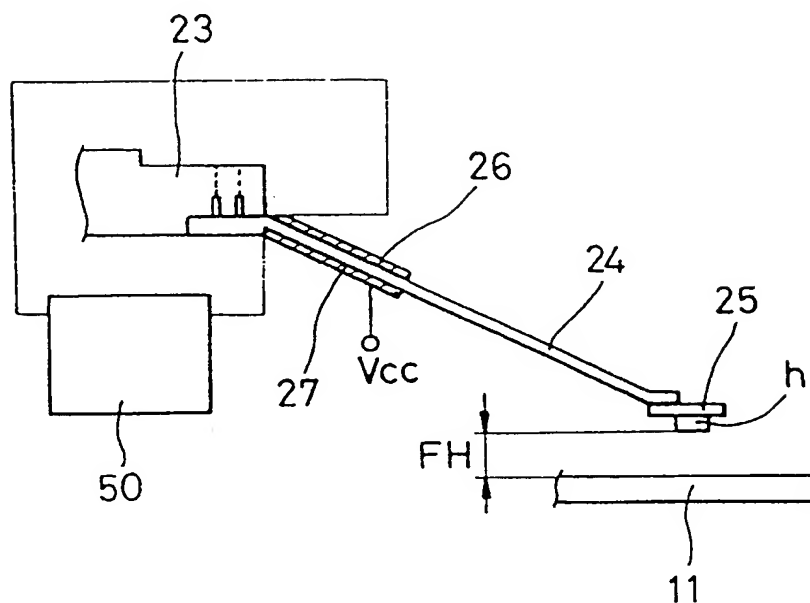


FIG. 6

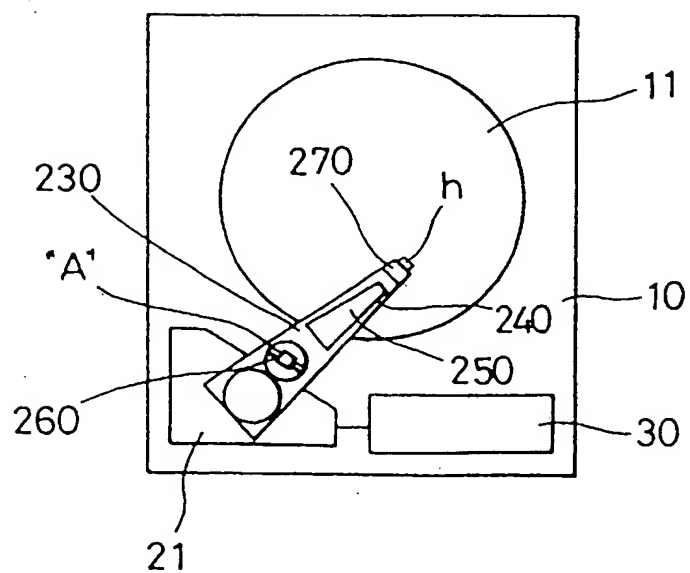


FIG. 7

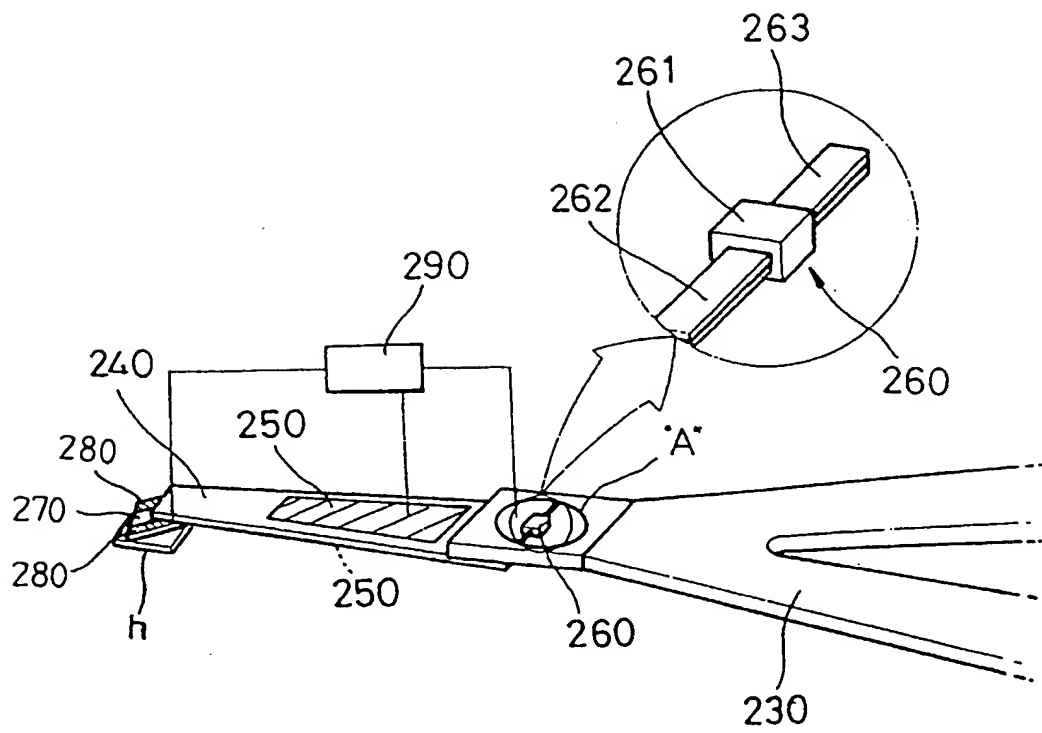


FIG. 8

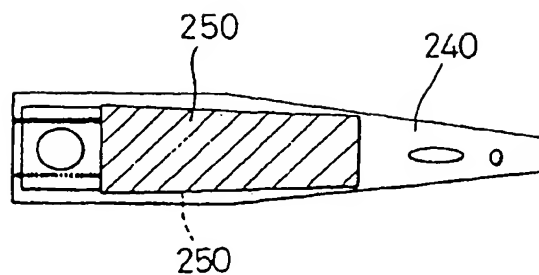


FIG. 9

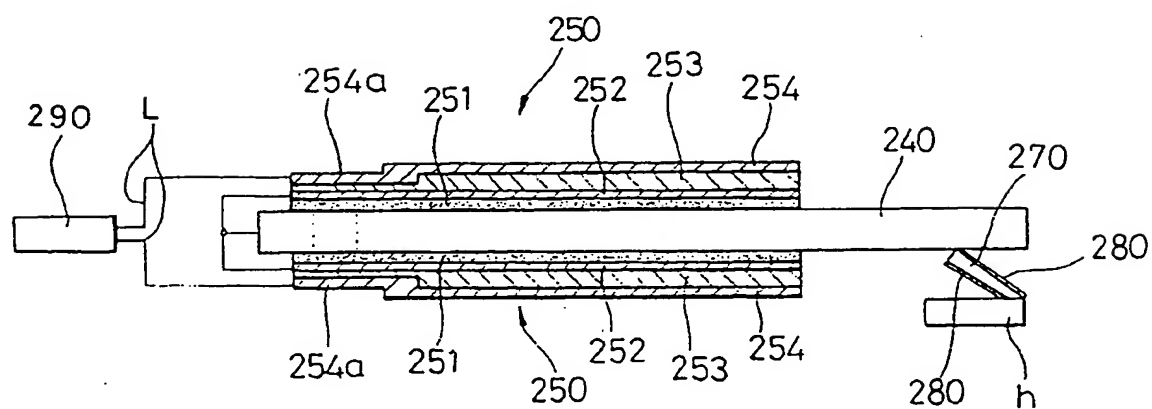


FIG. 10

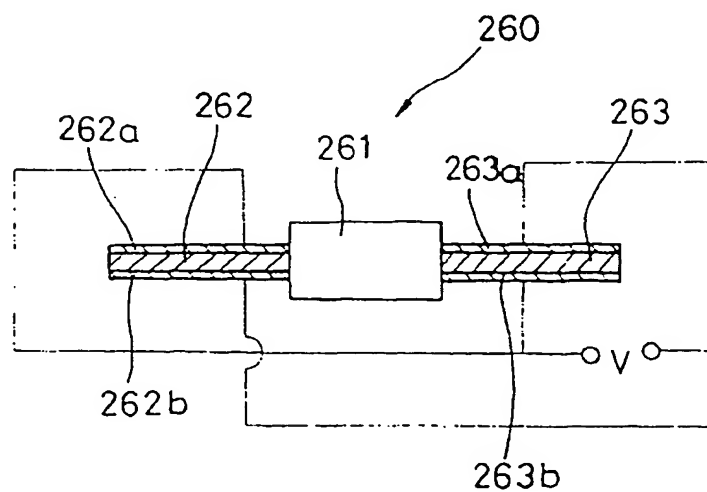


FIG. 11

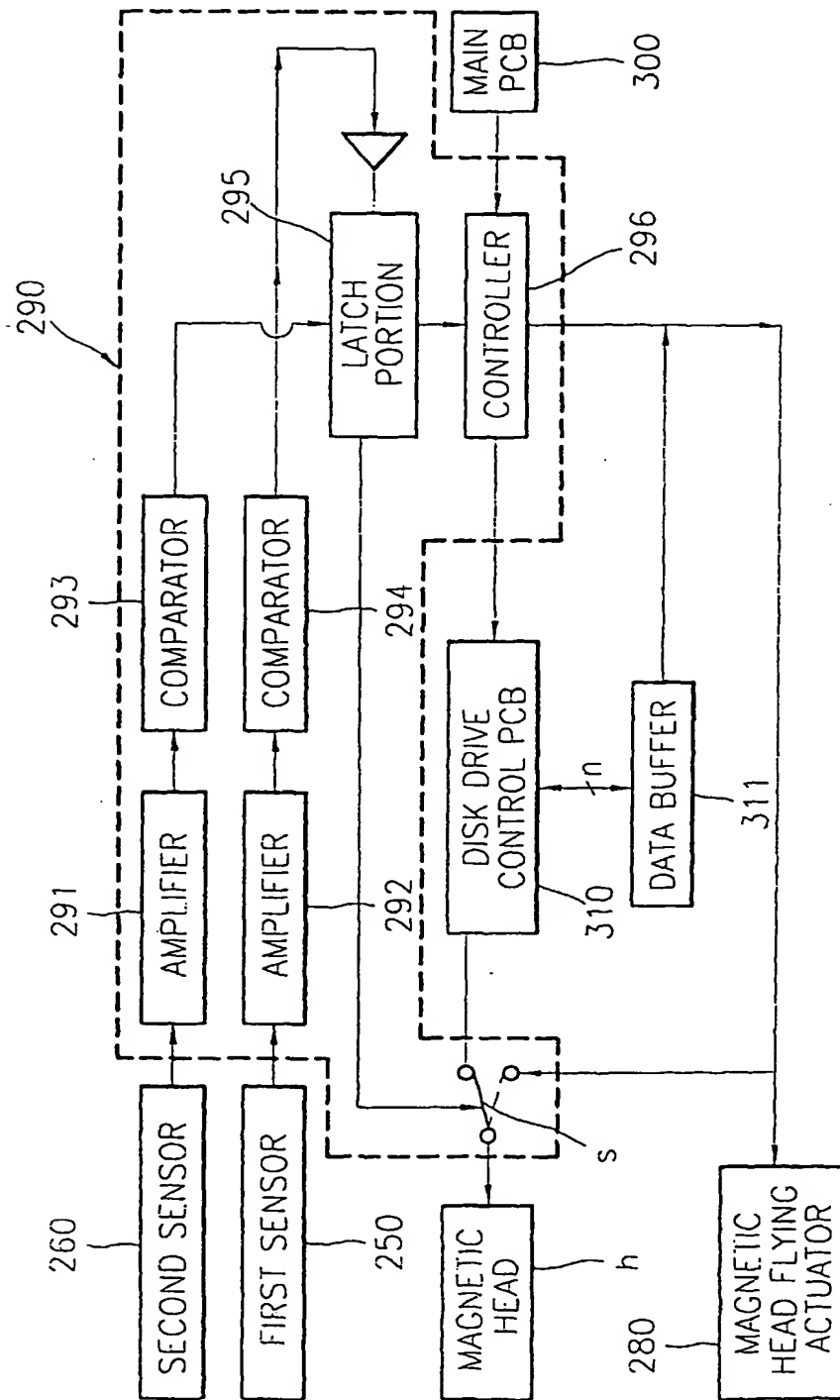
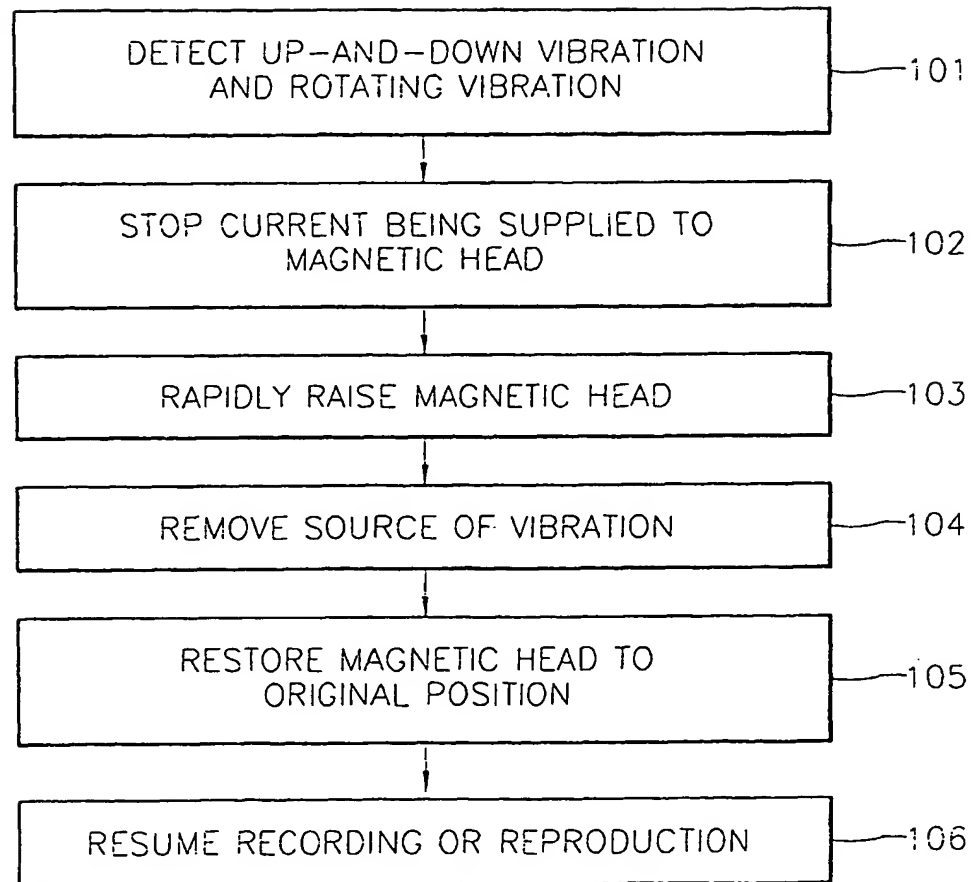


FIG. 12



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 98 30 3683



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 98 30 3683

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 097, no. 006, 30 June 1997 & JP 09 035285 A (MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC IND CO LTD), 7 February 1997, * abstract *	1, 14	
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 006, no. 192 (P-145), 30 September 1982 & JP 57 103159 A (FUJITSU LTD), 26 June 1982, * abstract *	1, 3, 4	
A	US 4 996 878 A (JOHN KÜBLER) 5 March 1991 * column 2, line 56 - line 14; figure 1 *	1, 9	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search BERLIN		Date of completion of the search 1 September 1998	Examiner Gerard, E
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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